

### **ABSTRACT**

A method for identifying virulent strains of *L. monocytogenes* that includes the use of primers or probes in a PCR assay or hybridization technique that employs primers or probes, which are specific for virulence-specific genes of *L.*  
5 *monocytogenes*. Also provided is a method of control of *L. monocytogenes* strains that have been identified using the method of the present invention.